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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No.	1374-098	Total Pages	26
	First Named Inventor or Application Identifier			
	Joseph J. Berke & Charles T. Michael			
Express Mail Label No.				

APPLICATION ELEMENTS <small>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.</small>	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
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<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <small>(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</small></p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification <small>[Total Pages 14]</small> <small>(preferred arrangement set forth below)</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Descriptive title of the invention- Cross References to Related Applications- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D- Reference to Microfiche Appendix- Background of the invention- Brief Summary of the invention- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)- Detailed Description- Claim(s)- Abstract of the Disclosure <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) <small>[Total Sheets 6]</small></p> <p>4. Oath or Declaration & Power of Attorney <small>[Total Pages 1]</small></p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy)</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) <small>(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)</small> <small>[Note Box 5 below]</small></p> <p>i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).</p> <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.</p>	<p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)</p> <p>7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies</p>
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ADDRESS	30100 Telegraph Road, Suite 460				
CITY	Bingham Farms	STATE	MI	ZIP CODE	48025
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">FEE TRANSMITTAL</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">Note: Effective October 1, 1997. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</p>	Complete if Known												
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 498.00	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>New Application</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Joseph J. Berke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>1374-098</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	New Application	Filing Date		First Named Inventor	Joseph J. Berke	Group Art Unit		Examiner Name		Attorney Docket Number	1374-098
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METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)	FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																																																																																																							
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:</p> <p>Deposit Account Number: <u>18-1166</u></p> <p>Deposit Account Name: <u>Alex Rhodes</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.18 and 1.17 <input type="checkbox"/> Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>3. ADDITIONAL FEES</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Entity Fee Code</th> <th>Small Entity Fee Code</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>105</td><td>130</td><td>205 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>127</td><td>50</td><td>227 25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>139 130 Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>147 2,520 For filing a request for reexamination</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>112 920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>113 1,840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>115</td><td>110</td><td>215 55 Extension for reply within first month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>116</td><td>400</td><td>216 200 Extension for reply within second month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>117</td><td>950</td><td>217 475 Extension for reply within third month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>118</td><td>1,510</td><td>218 755 Extension for reply within fourth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>128</td><td>2,060</td><td>228 1,030 Extension for reply within fifth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>119</td><td>310</td><td>219 155 Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>120</td><td>310</td><td>220 155 Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>121</td><td>270</td><td>221 135 Request for oral hearing</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>138 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>140</td><td>110</td><td>240 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>141</td><td>1,320</td><td>241 660 Petition to revive - unintentional</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>142</td><td>1,320</td><td>242 660 Utility issue fee (or reissue)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>143</td><td>450</td><td>243 225 Design issue fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>144</td><td>670</td><td>244 335 Plant issue fee</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>122</td><td>130</td><td>122 130 Petitions to the Commissioner</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>123</td><td>50</td><td>123 50 Petitions related to provisional applications</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>126</td><td>240</td><td>126 240 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>581</td><td>40</td><td>581 40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>146</td><td>790</td><td>246 395 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>149</td><td>790</td><td>249 395 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="3">Other fee (specify) _____</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="3">Other fee (specify) _____</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid</p> </td> <td> <p>SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 40</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Large Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee Description	Fee Paid	105	130	205 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath		127	50	227 25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.		139	130	139 130 Non-English specification		147	2,520	147 2,520 For filing a request for reexamination		112	920*	112 920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action		113	1,840*	113 1,840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action		115	110	215 55 Extension for reply within first month		116	400	216 200 Extension for reply within second month		117	950	217 475 Extension for reply within third month		118	1,510	218 755 Extension for reply within fourth month		128	2,060	228 1,030 Extension for reply within fifth month		119	310	219 155 Notice of Appeal		120	310	220 155 Filing a brief in support of an appeal		121	270	221 135 Request for oral hearing		138	1,510	138 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding		140	110	240 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable		141	1,320	241 660 Petition to revive - unintentional		142	1,320	242 660 Utility issue fee (or reissue)		143	450	243 225 Design issue fee		144	670	244 335 Plant issue fee		122	130	122 130 Petitions to the Commissioner		123	50	123 50 Petitions related to provisional applications		126	240	126 240 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt		581	40	581 40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	40	146	790	246 395 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))		149	790	249 395 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))		Other fee (specify) _____				Other fee (specify) _____				<p>* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid</p>		<p>SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 40</p>
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BAG CARRIER

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This invention relates to hand carriers and more particularly to a unique hand carrier for transporting large bags filled with loose and granular materials.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Although many loose and granular products such as fruit, vegetables, grains, salt, sand, trash, fertilizer, dog or cat food, potting soil, cement and the like are stored in large bags, little progress has been made in developing devices for carrying large bags, sacks and other deformable containers, filled with loose or granular materials. The common practices of carrying heavy bags by cradling, gripping and resting on shoulders are inefficient and frequently result in spillage, soiling of clothes and/or physical injuries. One of the principal drawbacks with the present procedures is a tendency to induce high stresses on muscles and vertebrae by elevating heavy bags. Moreover, the likelihood of spillage, spoilage and contamination increases when bags are opened and not securely closed.

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In spite of the substantial progress and the considerable efforts and large sums expended in developing drugs and surgical procedures for treating muscle and back injuries, one area which has remained completely incapable of resolution, until the present invention, is the avoidance of muscle and back injuries by

improvements in carrying heavy bags. A need exists for simple to use, effective devices for transporting heavy bags and sacks, partially or completely filled with loose or granular materials. This need is particularly urgent with elderly persons who constitute an increasing portion of the population and who must transport heavy bags from store to home or must lift to pour and use the contents of bags. Many women also have difficulty in lifting and transporting bags weighing 10 lbs. or more.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

All of the drawbacks and difficulties encountered with prior practices are completely overcome with the present invention. In order to overcome these drawbacks, a dedicated bag and sack carrier is provided which is effective and easy to use. One benefit of the invention is that heavy bags and sacks need only to be elevated by an amount which is necessary to transport them. Another benefit is that the carrier can be used for sealing previously opened bags and sacks.

In employing the teaching of the present invention, a plurality of alternate constructions can be adopted to achieve the desired results and capabilities. In this disclosure, some alternate constructions are discussed. However, these embodiments are intended as examples and should not be considered as limiting.

In this invention, resides certain features which individually and collectively contribute to its ability to reduce injuries and spillage during the carrying of heavy bags and sacks containing

loose or granular materials. In a first aspect of the invention the carrier is intended to be used in confined areas and for carrying light and moderately heavy bags and sacks. The carrier is comprised of a pair of elongated pivotally connected members for gripping upper portions of bags and sacks and a handle which is attached to the gripping members for carrying the bags and sacks in a suspended manner. At least one of the members has a plurality of small portions which protrude inwardly to grip the bags and sacks. An additional advantage is the ability to utilize the carrier as a secure closing device.

In a second aspect of the invention, the carrier is intended to be used for carrying heavy and/or large bags and sacks. The carrier is used in combination with a 2-wheel cart having an adjustable shelf for supporting the bottom of a bag or sack. The height of the cart is also adjustable such that different height bags can be supported on the shelf with upper bag portions held by the carrier. One feature of this aspect is that the carrier can be detached from the cart and used without the cart and if desired later reattached. Another feature is that the cart can be collapsed for storage, as its frame is adjustable and its shelf is foldable.

Further features and benefits will become apparent by reference to the drawings and ensuing detailed description of a preferred embodiment which discloses the best mode contemplated in carrying out the invention. The exclusive rights which are claimed are set forth in each of the numbered claims following the detailed

description of the preferred embodiment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and further objects, characterizing features, details and advantages thereof will appear more clearly with reference to the diagrammatic drawings illustrating specific embodiments of the invention by way of non-limiting example only.

Fig. 1 is a front view of a bag and sack carrier showing a pair of gripping members in a locked condition.

Fig. 2 is a left side view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a left side view of a carrier showing the gripping members in an unlocked condition.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 4-4 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a front view showing the bag carrier with a bag shown in phantom.

Fig. 6 is a right side view of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of a second embodiment of the present invention shown in a non-operative condition.

Fig. 8 is a front view of the second embodiment in the condition shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a right side view of the second embodiment in the condition shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 10 is a plan view of the second embodiment shown in an alternate condition.

Fig. 11 is a front view of the second embodiment in the condition shown in Fig. 10.

Fig. 12 is a right side view of the second embodiment in the condition shown in Fig. 10.

5 Fig. 13 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 13-13 in Fig. 11.

Fig. 14 is a rear view of the second embodiment in the condition shown in Fig. 10.

10 Fig. 15 is a plan view of the second embodiment with a bag shown in phantom.

Fig. 16 is a front view of the second embodiment with the bag shown in phantom.

Fig. 17 is an exploded view of the second embodiment.

15 Fig. 18 is a right side view of a third embodiment with a bag shown in phantom.

Fig. 19 is a right side view of a fourth embodiment.

Fig. 20 is a partial front view of a fifth embodiment.

Fig. 21 is an enlarged right side view of the fifth embodiment.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings wherein like numerals designate like and corresponding parts throughout the several views, a bag carrier 30, is shown in Figs. 1 through 6, inclusive, according to
25 the present invention.

One characteristic feature of the present invention is that

portions of bags and sacks are clamped between jaws 32 having gripping surfaces 31. By way of example, in the embodiment of Figs. 1 through 6, the gripping surfaces 31 of a pair of jaws 32 are surfaces having small protuberances, namely triangular tabs 33 which project inwardly between rectangular jaws 32. The gripping surfaces 31 generate high forces for preventing bags and sacks from being inadvertently separated from the carrier 30.

The rectangular jaws 32 are formed by riveting thin metal strips 34 to wood or plastic materials. The triangular tabs 33 are formed in stamping dies by shearing and bending triangular portions of the metal strips 34. Similar gripping surfaces may be formed by molding small protuberances by the usual manner in plastic jaws (not shown).

By way of further example, an alternate form of gripping surface 36 which is contemplated is shown in Figs. 20 and 21 wherein a plurality of triangular ridges 37 extend along the length of one of the jaws 38.

The jaws 32 are attached to a pair of pivotally connected wire arms 39, 40. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, end portions of the arms 39, 40 extend through apertures in the jaws 32 and threadably engage nuts 41 which retain the arms 39, 40 in the jaws 32. The arms 39, 40 are comprised of spaced apart vertical side portions 42 and connecting top portions 43. A handle 44 which is pivotally attached to one of the arms 39 serves as a means for carrying a bag and a means for tightly clamping the jaws 32 on the bag.

The handle 44 is comprised of a wire portion 45 having end

portions pivotally mounted on one 39 arm and a cylindrical wood or plastic hand portion 46 mounted on the wire portion 45. The clamping and releasing of the jaws 32 is best understood by reference to Figs. 2 and 3. When the jaws 32 are clamped as shown in Fig. 2, the wire portion 45 of the handle 44 constrains the arms 39, 40 from separating from each other. With reference to Fig. 3, the jaws 32 are released by rotating the handle 44 in the direction "A", to allow the jaws 32 to separate from each other in the directions "B".

The manner of using the carrier 30 is shown in Figs. 5 and 6 wherein the carrier 30 is clamped to a bag 47 drawn in phantom. After the jaws 32 are clamped on an upper portion of the bag 47, the bag 47 can be lifted or dragged along a surface with the handle 44. In this way, injuries are reduced since the bag 47 need only be lifted by a small amount or dragged without lifting along a surface.

Referring now to Figs. 7 through 18, inclusive, a second aspect 48 of the invention is shown wherein a carrier 50, according to the invention, is combined with a 2-wheel cart 51. The 2-wheel cart 51 is comprised of a tubular frame 52, an upper bracket 53 for attaching the carrier 50 and a lower shelf 54 for supporting a lower end of a bag or sack. The height of the 2-wheel cart 51 and area of the shelf 54 are adjustable for storage and to accommodate differences in sizes of bags or sacks.

The shelf 54 is telescopic and foldable from a vertical stored portion to a horizontal load supporting position. In this way, the

cart 51 can be reduced in size, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9, for storage in vehicle luggage compartments and used for transporting heavy bags and sacks to and from vehicles.

One of the carrier's jaws 55 serves as a handle and a bracket for attaching the carrier 50 to the cart 51. In Fig. 19, an alternate embodiment 56 is shown wherein a pair of jaws 57 is pivotally connected to a handle 58. With reference to Figs. 7 and 9, the carrier 50 is attached to the cart 51 with a pair of bolts 59 and thumb nuts 60. As shown in 15, when the carrier 50 is detached from the cart 51, it can be independently used to transport bags.

The second jaw 61 is pivotally connected to the first mentioned jaw 55. Referring again to Figs. 7 and 9, an alternate means for clamping jaws 55, 61 is disclosed wherein the jaws 55, 61 are clamped with eye bolts 62 and thumb screws 63.

The manner of using this embodiment 48 is illustrated in Figs. 14 and 15 wherein the carrier 50 is clamped to an upper portion of a rather large bag 64 shown in phantom and the lower portion of the bag 64 is supported on the lower shelf 54. Additional retention of the bag is provided by an elastic bungee cord 65 which is attached to the lower shelf 54 and one of the clamps 61.

It will thus be seen that the objects set forth above, among those made apparent from the preceding description, are efficiently attained. Since certain changes may be made in the above constructions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or

shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A carrier for transporting a bag or sack comprised of: a pair of elongated jaws, at least one of said jaws having a gripping surface for retaining a bag or sack; a pair of pivotally connected arms attached to said jaws; a handle attached to at least one of said jaws; and a means for clamping said jaws to said bag or sack.

2. The carrier as recited in claim 1 wherein said gripping surface of said jaw is comprised of a plurality of small outward extending portions for retaining said bag or sack.

3. A carrier for transporting a bag or sack comprised of: a pair of elongated jaws; a pair of wire arms, each of said arms having a pivotally connected upper portion and pair of lower end portions attached to one of said jaws; a thin metal strip attached to at least one of said jaws, said metal strip having a plurality of outward extending tabs for forming a gripping surface; a means for clamping said jaws to a bag or sack; and a handle attached to one of said arms.

4. The carrier as recited in claim 3 wherein said outward extending tabs are triangular.

5. In combination with a cart, a carrier mounted on an upper

portion of said cart, said carrier having a pair of elongated jaws, and a means for clamping said carrier to an upper portion of said bag or sack, and a handle attached to at least one of said jaws.

6. The combination set forth in claim 5 wherein said cart is a 2-wheel cart.

7. The combination set forth in claim 5 wherein said cart has a lower shelf for supporting said bag or sack,

8. The combination set forth in claim 7 wherein said shelf is selectively foldable from a vertical stored position to a horizontal load supporting position.

9. The combination set forth in claim 7 wherein said shelf has an area which is adjustable.

10. The combination set forth in claim 5 wherein said carrier is detachable from said 2-wheel cart.

11. The combination set forth in claim 5 wherein said handle is pivotally connected to both of said jaws.

12. The combination set forth in claim 5 wherein said cart has a height which is adjustable.

13. The combination set forth in claim 5 wherein said means for clamping said carrier to said bag or sack comprises a pair of bolts, each having one end portion pivotally attached to an end portion of one of said jaws and a thumb nut for engaging an opposite end portion of another of said jaws.

14. In combination, a 2-wheel cart, said cart having a tubular frame which is vertically adjustable, and a lower shelf portion attached to said frame which is selectably foldable from a vertical stored position to a horizontal load supporting position, and a carrier detachably mounted on an upper portion of said cart for transporting a bag or sack, said carrier having a pair of elongated jaws, each of said jaws having a gripping surface for retaining said upper portion of a bag or sack, a means for clamping said carrier to an upper portion of said bag or sack, and a handle attached to one of said jaws.

15. A method for transporting a bag filled with loose or granular materials comprised of the steps of gripping an upper portion of said bag between a pair of jaws of a clamp, said clamp having a handle attached to at least one of said jaws; grasping said handle with a hand; and transporting said bag with said hand.

16. The method for transporting a bag filled with loose or granular materials according to claim 15 wherein said bag is dragged with said hand along a surface.

17. The method for transporting a bag filled with loose or granular materials according to claim 15 further comprising the step of elevating said bag after said handle is grasped with said hand.

18. The method for transporting a bag filled with loose or granular materials according to claim 15 further comprising the step of supporting said bag on a wheeled cart before said step of gripping an upper portion of said bag between a pair of jaws.

19. The method for transporting a bag filled with loose or granular materials according to claim 18 further comprising the step of attaching a bungee cord to said cart for retaining said bag.

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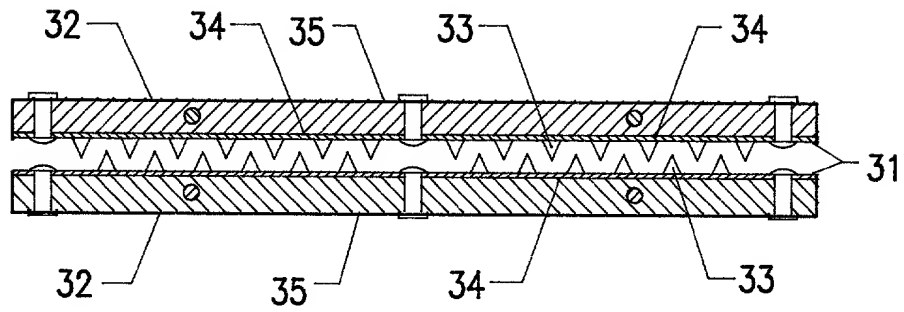


FIG. 4

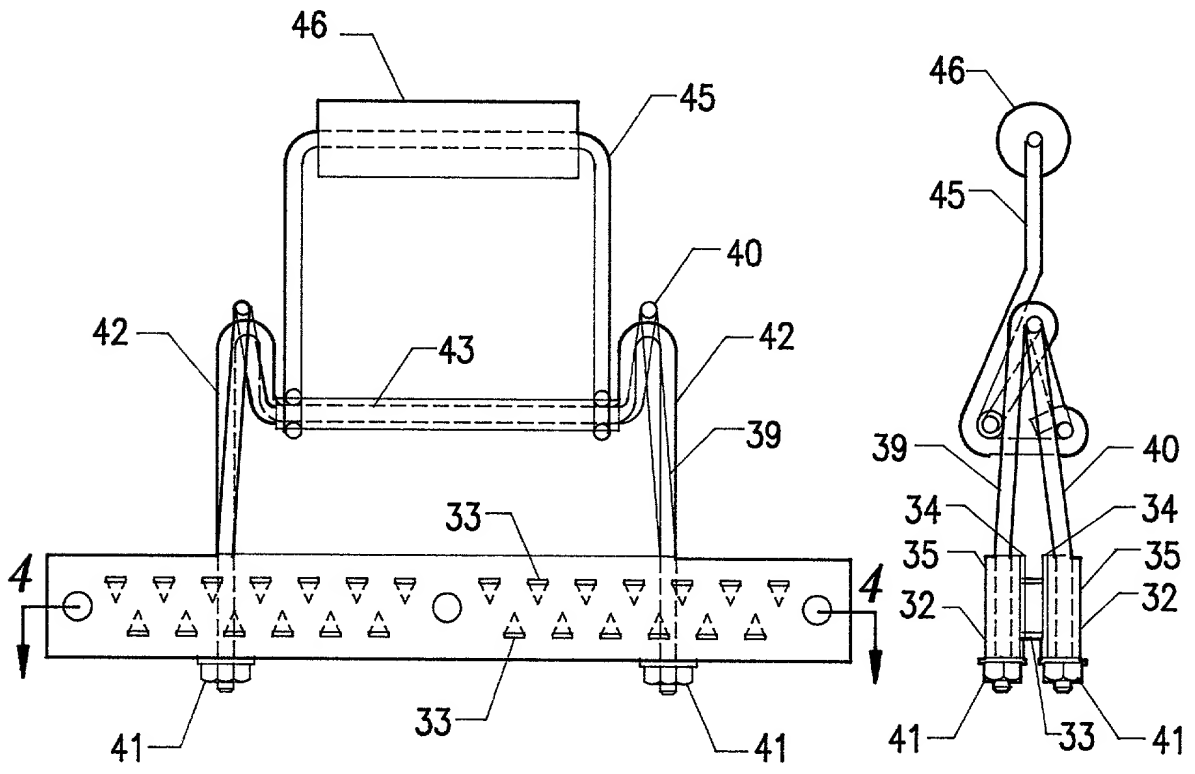


FIG. 1

FIG. 2



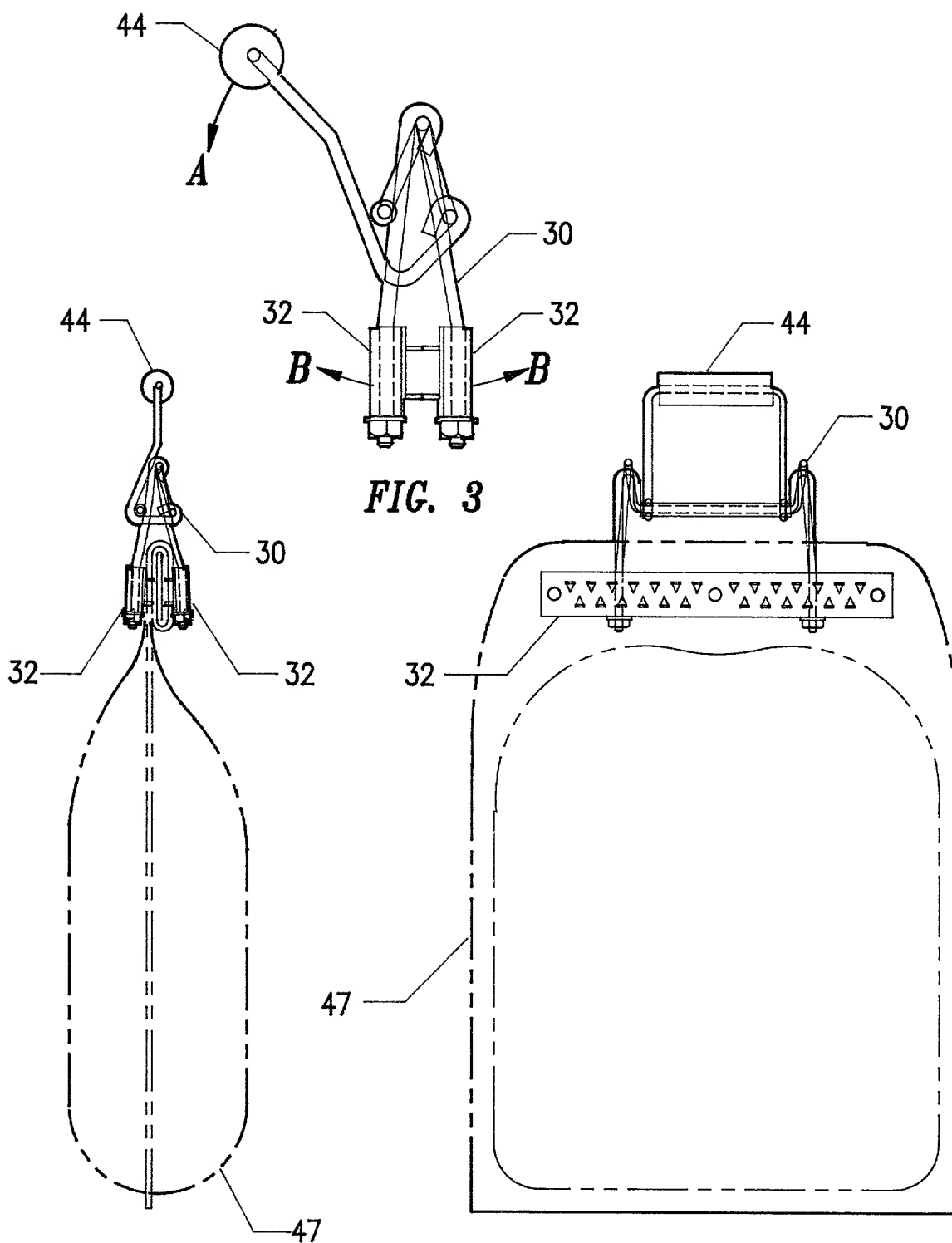


FIG. 6

FIG. 5

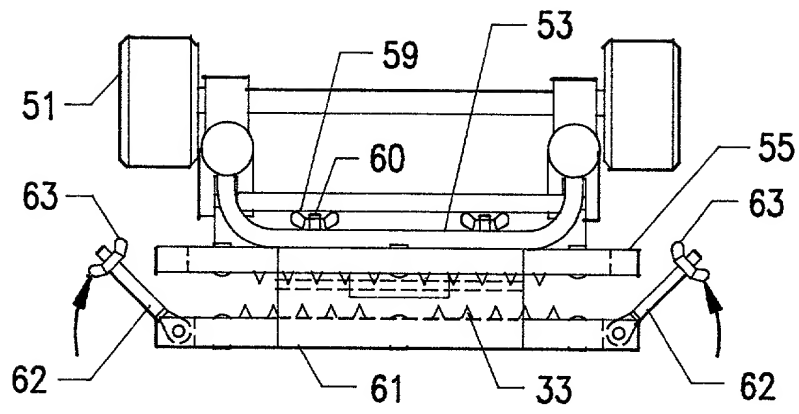


FIG. 7

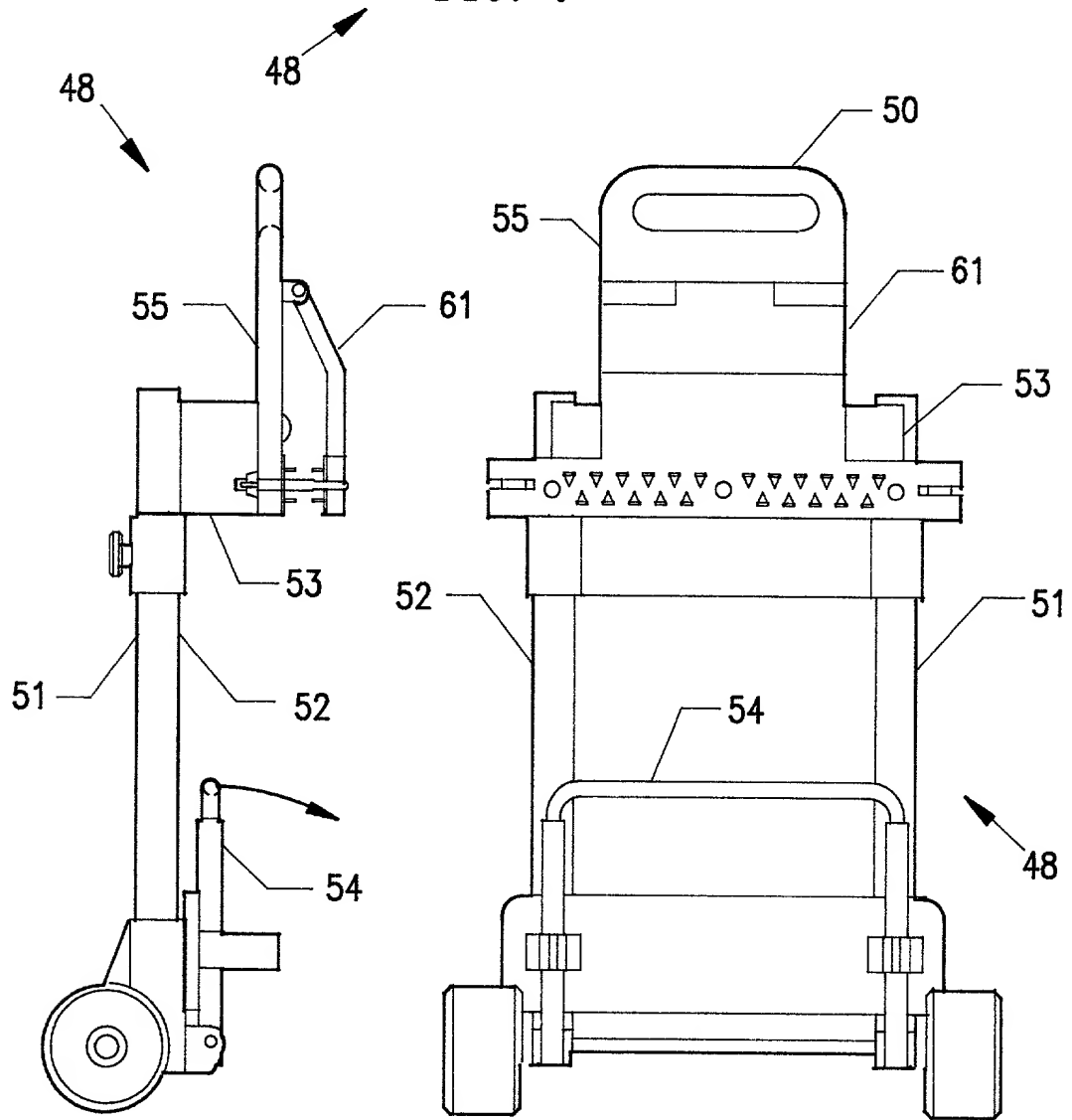


FIG. 9

FIG. 8

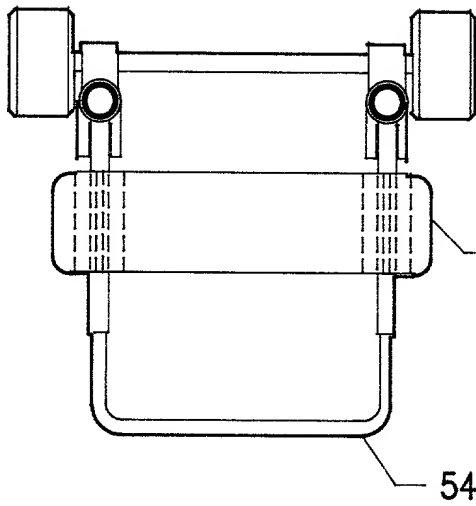


FIG. 13

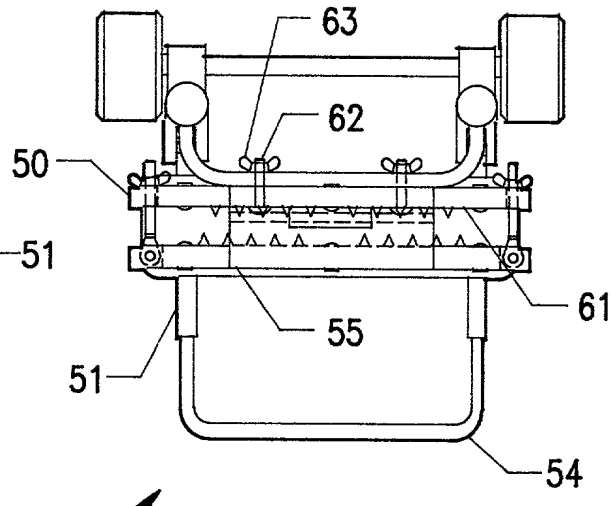


FIG. 10

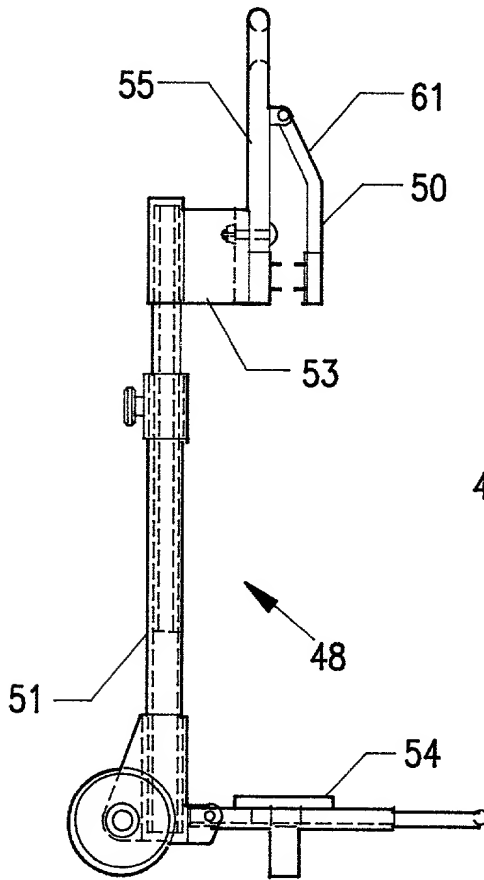


FIG. 12

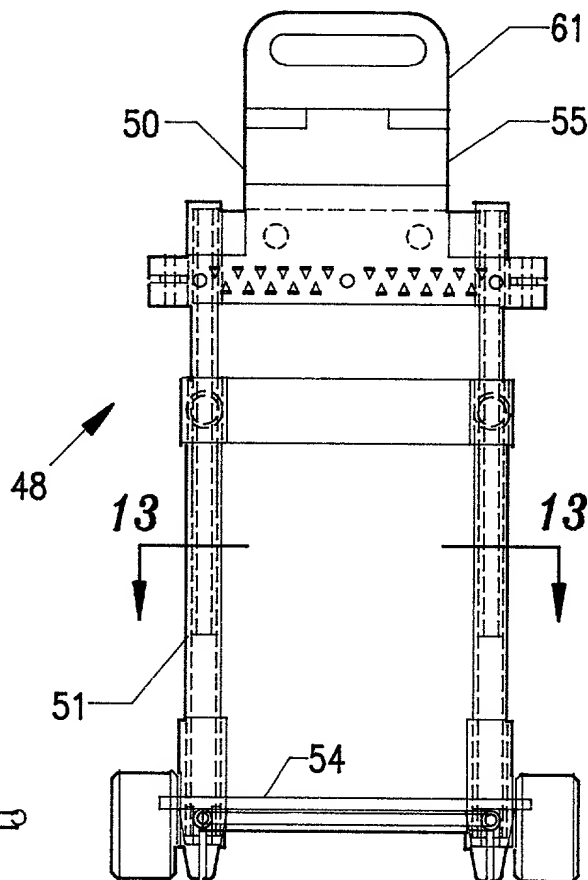


FIG. 11

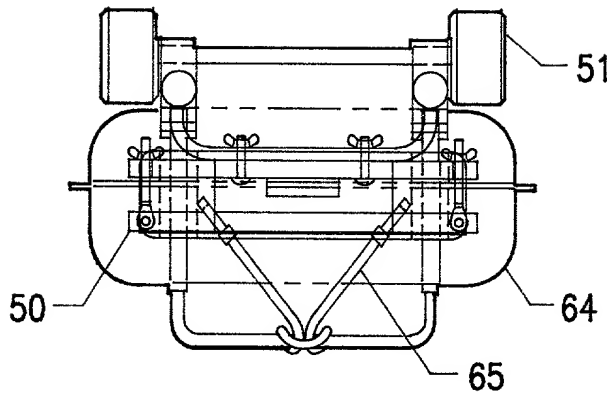


FIG. 15

48

48

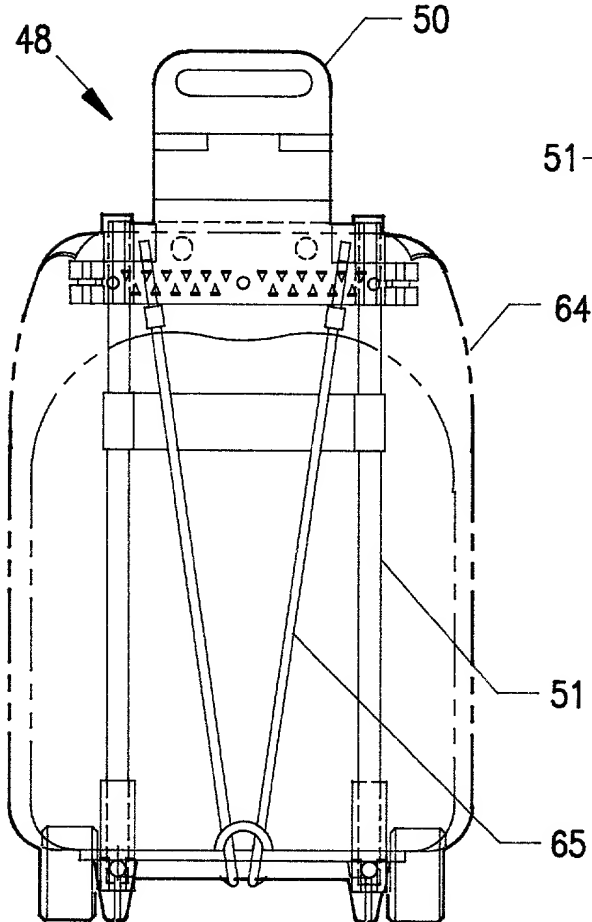


FIG. 16

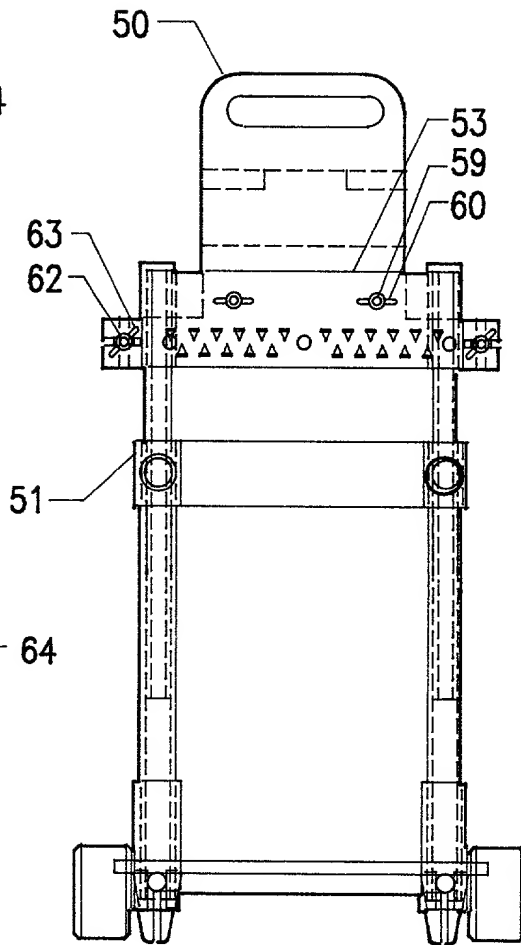


FIG. 14

48

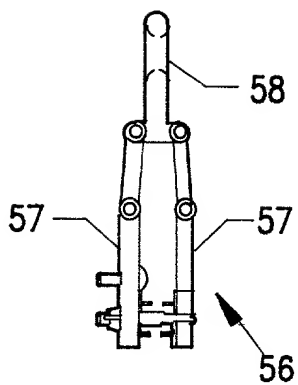


FIG. 19

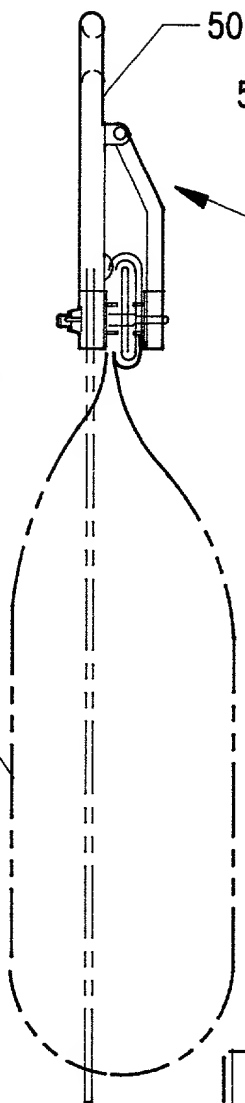


FIG. 18

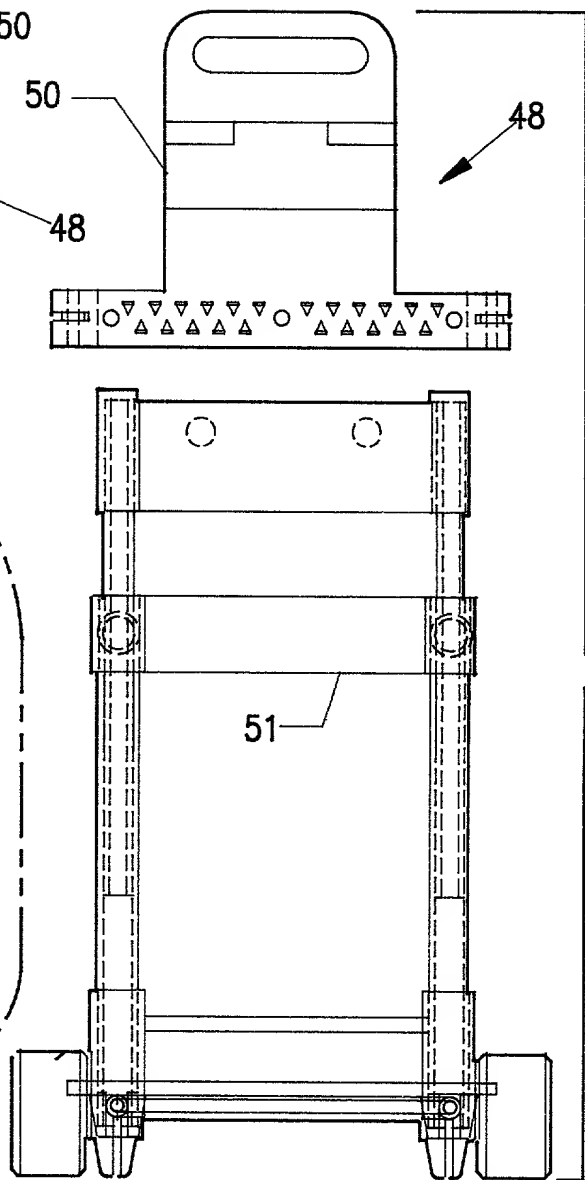


FIG. 17

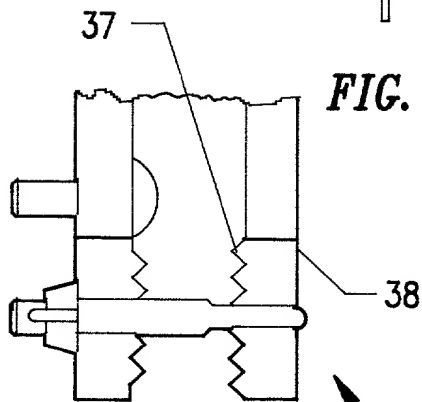


FIG. 21

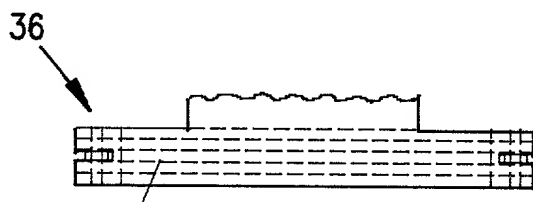


FIG. 20

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, the below named inventors, hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our names.

We believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **BAG CARRIER**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

We hereby appoint Alex Rhodes, Registration No. 26,797, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Address all correspondence to Alex Rhodes at 30100 Telegraph Road, Suite 460, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 and all telephone calls to (248) 646-4400.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of First Inventor: Joseph J. Berke

Inventor's Signature: Joseph J. Berke M.D.

Date: Dec 1st 1998

Country of Citizenship: U.S.A.

Residence: 2063 Long Lake Shore, West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Post Office Address: 2063 Long Lake Shore, West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Full Name of Second Joint Inventor: Charles T. Michael

Inventor's Signature: Charles T. Michael

Date: 12/01/98

Country of Citizenship: U.S.A.

Residence: 5698 Firwood, Troy, Michigan 48098

Post Office Address: 5698 Firwood, Troy, Michigan 48098

5698 FIRWOOD TROY MI 48098

**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

1374-098

Applicant or Patentee: Joseph J. Berke & Charles T. MichaelApplication or Patent No.: New Patent Application

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: BAG CARRIER

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- ☐ the application identified above.
- ☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☐ No such person, concern, or organization exists.
- ☒ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Joseph J. Berke
2063 Long Lake Shore
West Bloomfield, MI 48323


Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Joseph J. Berke

NAME OF INVENTOR



Signature of inventor

Dec 1st 1998
Date

NAME OF INVENTOR



Signature of inventor

12/01/98
Date

Charles T. Michael

NAME OF INVENTOR



Signature of inventor

12/01/98
Date